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AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR

IN AN OUTRAGEOUSLY
OVERWHELMING,
OMNIFARIOUS, OUT
AND OUT
ONSLAUGHT AGAINST
THE OUTLANDISH
OUTLAWS

YEAH,
RIGHT.



50
YEARS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

1941-1991



THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

"Xs and Os"

EXCALIBUR

LOBDELL/ROSS/MILBROW/OLIVER
ELOPOULOS/KAVANAGH/DE FALCO

EXCALIBUR CREATED BY
CLAREMONT AND PAVIS

PEOPLE AREN'T ALWAYS WHO
WE THINK THEY ARE.

TAKE BRIAN BRADDOCK,
FOR INSTANCE.

YOU KNOW HIM AS THE
BARREL-CHESTED,
STEEL-JAWED, SUPER
HERO CALLED CAPTAIN
BRITAIN.

OKAY, SO HE IS ALL
THOSE THINGS--BUT
THE TRUTH IS, HE'S
ALSO MUCH MORE.

DID YOU KNOW HE WAS
ONCE A DEDICATED
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
AT THE PRESTIGIOUS
DARKMOOR RESEARCH
CENTER IN ENGLAND?

OR THAT HE LATER EARNED
A MASTER'S DEGREE IN
PHYSICS FROM THAMES
UNIVERSITY IN LONDON?

HE WAS AS DEDICATED
TO PRODUCING SAFE
NUCLEAR ENERGY THEN
AS HE IS TO BEING A
SUPER HERO TODAY.

YES, OUR
BRIAN.

SEE--PEOPLE AREN'T
ALWAYS WHO WE THINK
THEY ARE.

MMMMMMMMMM
SRUUUUUUUU
MMMMMMMMMM
SRUUUUUUUU

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AS CAPTAIN BRITAIN, BRIAN WENT ON TO BECOME THE MOST RESPECTED HERO ON HIS SIDE OF THE POND.

ALONG WITH MEGAN, SHADOWCAT, NIGHT-CRAWLER AND PHOENIX, HE FOUNDED EXCALIBUR--HIS COUNTRY'S PREMIER SUPER TEAM.

AS FOR DARKMOOR? IT HAS BECOME THE SHANT OF ESCALATING NO NUKES DEMONSTRATIONS.

A LOT LIKE THIS ONE.

KURT-- I'M NOT REAL COMFORTABLE WITH THIS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE WENT OUR FORTE.

JA, I'M INCLINED TO AGREE, BUT WE'RE HERE AT BRIAN'S REQUEST. RACHEL, HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS.

SEE HERE, WE'LL HAVE NO MORE OF THIS!

LOOK, IT'S EXCALIBUR! THEY'LL SHOW THESE BRIGADES WHAT'S WHAT!

NO
NUKES

WE
ONLY
HAVE
ONE
EART.

LOOK, IT'S EXCALIBUR! THEY'LL SHOW THESE FASCISTS WHAT'S WHAT!

STAND BACK, SON. WE DON'T WANT THIS TO GET UGLY.

IT'S ALREADY "UGLY" FOR HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED THE EFFECT THE WORLD'S "MOST INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM" IS HAVING ON THE REST OF THIS PLANET?!



BY THE POWER INVESTED IN ME BY THE COUNTRY OF ENGLAND, I ORDER YOU PEOPLE TO DISPERSE!

RSST... MESSIAN-- WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PUBLIC ASSEMBLY? YOU HAVE THAT HERE, DON'T YOU?

JUMP BACK, CAP'N! DARKMOOR IS CONDUCTING ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTS! WHEN THEY'RE NOT KILLING FISH, THEY'RE FINDING NEW WAYS TO BLOW UP THE PLANET!

NO OFFENSE TO YER MATES, BUT SOME OF US DON'T FANCY BECOMING MUTANTS IF WE CAN AVOID IT!



YOU IDIOTS! WE NEED NUCLEAR POWER IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE STRIP-MINING OF OUR NATURAL RE--

WAAAAA! A MINUTE! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! NUCLEAR ENERGY IS THE PITS!



I THOUGHT WE WERE HERE TO HELP THE PROTESTERS!

SHADOWCAT, WITH YOUR SCIENCE BACKGROUND, YOU SHOULD APPR--

UH-- GUNS? IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION IN FRONT OF EVERYONE?

THE YOUNG WOMAN HAS A POINT.



MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS INSIDE?

DR. WALSHE! WE'D BE HONORED, SIR.



SEEING AS THESE ARE THE FINAL DAYS OF THE P.R.G. IT IS I WHO HAVE THE HONOR.

I'VE HERE

I'LL SAY, ANY MORE HELP LIKE THAT AND WE'LL HAVE A FULL BLOWN RIOT ON OUR HANDS!



SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW, BOSS?

WE CONTINUE ACCORDING TO PLAN.

ONE DOESN'T TRAVEL TO ENGLAND WITHOUT EXPECTING TO ENCOUNTER EXCALIBUR.

IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COME, BRIAN. I ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO TO HELP.

WHA--?! HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME BENEATH THIS MASK?

PLEASE... I WOULD SOONER NOT RECOGNIZE MY OWN SON.

CAN THIS PLACE BE ANY MORE DESERTED, MERR PROFESSOR?

I'M AFRAID NOT, NIGHTCREATURE. WITH THATCHER'S RESIGNATION, THE TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION IS TURNING. FUNDING IS SCARCE AND WE'RE REDUCED TO A SKELETON CREW.

ANYONE WHO DEALS IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH IS AUTOMATICALLY LABELED A MONSTER.

AND, I DARE SAY, IT'S A REPUTATION WE MIGHT HAVE EARNED.

EXCUSE ME AS I SHED A TEAR!

THAT MOB ACCUSED YOU OF ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTS. TRUE, OR NOT?!

SHADOWCAT!

PLEASE, BRIAN.

EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE SO CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF THE PLANET.

PAT ME ON THE HEAD AND SO HELP ME I'LL CLOCK YOU ONE SQUARE IN THE CHOPS.

NO DOUBT YOU WOULD.

I CAN, WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS AT DARKMOOR.

I'M AFRAID THAT DOESN'T ANSWER HER QUESTION.

AND THE NAME IS NIGHTCRAWLER.

...THE QUEEN'S VERSION OF THE X-MEN DECIDE TO SHOW UP!

I CAN HEAR THE BOMBS BREAKING NOW.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

THREE WEEKS UNDER COVER TO STUDY THE LAYOUT OF THIS PLACE--

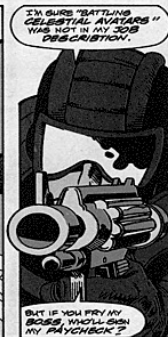
--AND TWO SECONDS BEFORE RENDEZVOUS IN THE BUILDING'S MOST OBSCURE SECTOR...

HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW APPEARANCES CAN SOMETIMES BE DECEIVING...









LET'S SEE IF MY PATENTED **STUN GUN** HAS ANY EFFECT ON THE STRONGEST MIND ON EARTH... NOT TO MENTION THE NICEST SET OF LEGS.

BE SERIOUS...

ZAAP



GOOD WORK, PALADIN! SHE'S DAZED!

DAZED?! CONSIDERING THE SETTING I USED, SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN OUT **COLD** FOR A MONTH!

UH, ANY SUGGESTIONS?

?

KEEP HER **DISTRACTED!**

CAN YOU BE ANY MORE **VAGUE?**

DISTRACTED, HUH?

THIS COULD WORK.

THAT'S WHY I PAY YOU THE BIG MONEY. BE **CREATIVE.**

I MEAN, I'VE HAD **WORSE** IDEAS.



NIGHTCREEPER, ISN'T IT? YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE "SUPER-BATTLE GAS" FOR A WHILE NOW--

--IS IT ME, OR CAN THEY **GENUINELY** BE A LOT OF FUN?

THE NAME IS NIGHTCRAWLER...

...AND THE KEY IS ALWAYS KEEPING THINGS **SPONTANEOUS.**

HOW SO?



BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF **WHATEVER'S** ON HAND...



...OR TAIL -- --AS THE CASE
MAY BE.

OW!

AUF
WIEDERSEHN!



ATTACKED BY A
GUY ON A SKATE-
BOARD? I DIDN'T
EVEN NEED TO
TELEPORT!

WAS?

A BLAST
OF AIR?



I CAN'T BELIEVE SABLE
KINES SOMEONE WHO
FIRES BLASTS OF AIR.
HOW INTIMIDATING.

THE SCIENTIFIC
TERM IS
"PNEUMATICS."

AND I
GET BY,
THANK
YOU.



GOTCHA, YA' CRAZY
BROAD BUMBO LADY!

SANDMAN?!

WHAT ARE
YOU--CRAZY?!

WILL YOU
PUT ME
DOWN?!

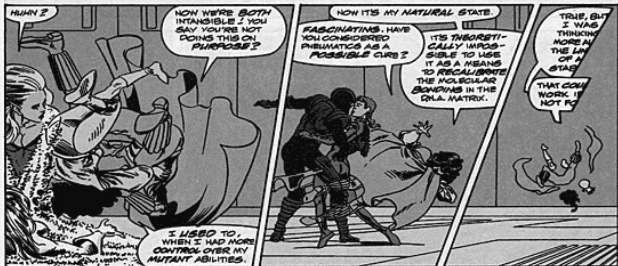
THE ANSWER
TO ALL THREE
QUESTIONS
IS "NO."



2 ULP! MESSIAN--
I DIDN'T REALIZE
YOUR SHAPE
SHIFTING
ABILITY WAS
SO...

...WELL-
DEFINED.

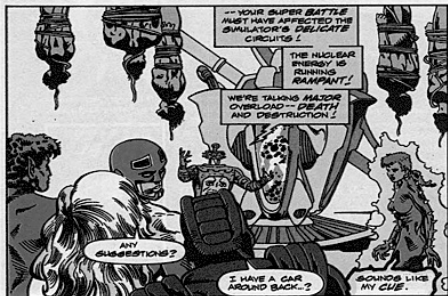
LIVE
AND
LEARN.











IT WILL TAKE HOURS TO PROPERLY DISARM THE DEVICE WITHOUT DESTROYING IT!

PARDON US IF WE DESTROY IT NOW AND AVOID THE RISK.

TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.



I'D UP-UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.

I'D UP-UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.

I'D UP-UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.

LET'S SEE WHAT EFFECT MY PHASING POWER HAS ON YOUR ELECTRO-MECHANICAL BODY.



I'D RATHER YOU HADN'T DONE THAT.



THRUUUUU

NOW THAT SOUNDS OMINOUS.

CHILD, DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

NO, NOT REALLY.



THAT GENETIC MONSTROSITY YOU SEE BEFORE YOU CALLED THE SHEPHERD.

YOUR PHASING POWER HAS CAUSED MANY OF MY PHASING-- THE GUNS USED TO DYNAMI-- CALLY ANIMATE MY CREATIONS!

UNDER OPTIMUM CONDITIONS, HE'S A FEARFUL ENEMY AGAINST THE ESCAPE OF THE CLONES.

I TAKE IT THESE AREN'T "OPTIMUM CONDITIONS?"

I FEAR THE IRRADIATED CLONES AND THE SHEPHERD WILL BAMPAGE OUT OF CONTROL!

MARVEL 1990 RULLPEN BULLETINS 1991

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Well, another year has rolled around and Dr. Doom still hasn't conquered the world, Wolverine hasn't gotten any gentler and Irving Forbush is still a klutz! In other words, all is well among the majestic minions of Marveldom!

Still, we can't let this fateful date come and go without zeroing in on some vitally important New Year's resolutions. Since I'm the guy writing this sanguine snippet of ponderous prose, it looks like the resolutions we're about to consider will be my very own!

First of all, I hereby resolve to stop huckstering our big new production for 1991, "The Marvel World of Tomorrow!" You've heard enough about it! I won't even tell you that we're about to change its

titanic title. Nor will I bombastically breathe a word about the fact that you'll learn the new name in our very next Soapbox! No sir, no more exasperating exploitation of the magnificently meritorious "Marvel World of Tomorrow" from now on!

Next, I valiantly vow to put a damper on my obnoxious overuse of agonizing alliteration! From now on, I'm gonna write as nicely, normally and naturally as everyone else! If I don't, may I be callously condemned to spend a miserable month wretchedly reading nothing but the melancholy mags of our darily defiant and disarmingly distinguished Competition!

Finally, I hereby resolve to write no Soapbox unless its theme is mightily meaningful and fraught with passionate profundity. No more shall any bantering words of mine serve to trivialize the

philosophical impact of our weighty Marvel tomes! Henceforth, each phrase I write shall be studded with sagacity, garnished with greatness, loaded with learning and imbued with intellectualism! I mean, hey, a guy's gotta keep up with his rollickin' readers!

So here's wishing you the best of life's gifts for 1991, where the excitement and surprises we have in store for you will boggle your mind! But while you're being boggled, remember—it's time to take a Hulk to tea, to see what color his skin will be!

Excelsior®

Janice

It's January again — wait a minute — wasn't it January last month? Well, it was supposed to be! Heh heh . . . we seem to have gotten a little mixed up with our *Bulleen Bulletins* pages. Well, no use crying over spilled ink. Let's start this new year off right; what say we begin it with January?

January, as any Marveloid knows, is the month of making promises you have no intention of keeping for the purpose of atoning for your holiday excesses. So let's see what the Mighty Marvel freelancers have resolved for the coming year.

X-MEN super-scribe *Chris Claremont* resolved to become "a lean, mean, writing machine . . . with hair." (Chris noted that this resolution falls under the heading of "fantasy," but then acknowledged that since he writes mutants, anything is possible!)

Quasi-legendary pencil-pusher *John Buscema*, soon to make his triumphant return to THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, said his goal is "to try to get more money from Marvel!"

Ultra-personable THOR penciler *Ron Frenz* said his ambition "is the same as every freelancer; to get all my projects on schedule, I want to get credit as the first one to say that." (Among those projects: the SPIDER-MAN CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN ADVENTURE book, which was scripted by *Peter David* several years back).

The demi-diabolical *Dan Chichester*, who writes for *HELLRAISER* and *SHIELD*, said he intends "to solve that da'n puzzle box Marcus McLaurin gave me last Christmas!"

Hotshot artist **Tom Morgan** has a simple goal: "To try to work on books that have an audience! I also want to improve my storytelling—I don't want to have an old-fashioned style. I also want to inform the fans of my upcoming work, such as my pencil and ink job in **WHAT IF... #24** ("What if Wolverine Became Lord of the Vampires?"), and my upcoming **EXCALIBUR** special with Michael Higgins."

CONAN THE BARBARIAN neo-artist Gary Hartle boasted, "I can guarantee that there will be no Punisher, Ghost Rider, or Wolverine team-ups in CONAN!"

Jim Starlin, poly-prolific writer of the



SILVER SURFER as well as the upcoming **INFINITY GAUNTLET** Limited Series, said "I haven't done a New Year's Resolution in years. I'm perfect as I am!"

Mark Evanier, the multitacular scribe of GROC and HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS, promised, "I'm going to resolve to avoid shameless plugs for HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS in the pages of GROC. Instead, I'll do it on the Bullpen Page, where it belongs."

DAREDEVIL's penciler without fear, Lee Weeks, said his resolution for the new year is "to not have any New Year's Resolutions!"

Ultra-hot penciler *Jim Lee* has an admirable goal: "I want to refine my craft and hone my abilities to a higher plateau, OR to work on more commercial books, like the new *X-MEN* #1 I'm doing with Chris Claremont!"

Superstar inker *Terry Austin* said, "I resolve that next year, when I receive that box of home-baked Christmas cookies from Doctor Doom, I'll have them checked

out by the bomb squad before I take the first bite!"

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN's amazing writer-man David Michelinie said, "I resolve to stop using the health problems of my imaginary friend, Stewart, as an excuse for missing my deadlines."

Pencil/inker extraordinaire Al Milgrom has an unusual goal. Said Al, "I resolve to finish everything that Danny Fingeroth has written that I am drawing." (That includes the DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN Limited Series, and an eighty-page FANTASTIC FOUR Graphic Novel called "Fathers and Sons.")

And CAPTAIN AMERICA colorist supreme Steve Buccellato's resolution is "to become Rob Liefeld's first favorite colorist. I'm really shootin' for it."

As for your humble Bullpen Bulletin Page Assemblers, our only resolution is this: to get these fershlugginer things back on track again! See you next month! (Let's see...next month would be March, right?)







WE WH... GOT WHAT WE
CAME FOR. NO HARD
FEELINGS, HUH?

HEY, IT
HAPPENS.

IF YOU EVER
NEED TO EARN
SOME EXTRA
CASH...

KATECHEN WAS
SUCH A BIG HEART.
SHE'D FORGIVE DR.
DOOM IF SHE HAD
THE CHANCE.

CALL ME
SOMETIME.



NOW THAT THEY'RE
GONE... DO YOU
THINK BRIAN WILL
BE ALL RIGHT?

WITH TIME,
KURT.
LOTS
OF TIME.



PLEASE, I HAVE TO KNOW.
WAS THERE EVER SUCH A
PERSON AS "DR. WALSH?"

WAS HE
REAL?

IF A MAN'S LIFE IS MEASURED
BY THE LOVE AND RESPECT
OF OTHERS...

...IF YOU BELIEVED IN OUR
DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD...

THEN YES, LAD. I WAS
"REAL."



IF NOT, THEN
I'M SORRY,
DR.

DON'T APOLOGIZE
FOR BEING WHO
YOU ARE, SIR.



IT DOESN'T
BECOME A
GENTLEMAN.



GDB... 2

PEOPLE ARE
SELDOM WHO
WE THINK
THEY ARE.

THEY'RE OFTEN...
MUCH MORE.



